

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3441

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Organic Farming

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of organic farming in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the organic/natural farming is emerging as a strong substitute for chemical farming despite being a more expensive farm practice and if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government to make this conventional farming system cheaper/profitable in the country;

(c) whether the Government is organizing training and awareness campaigns/ workshops about organic farming techniques and the benefits of organic farming in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the number of farmers who have attended such workshops during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide subsidies and soft loans to the farmers engaged in organic farming as a fraction of total component of loans and subsidies provided by the States and the Centre and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government has conducted research on vertical farming and permaculture in the country and if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

श्री अरवि प्रसाद आर्य : जी, मैं आपसे एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। क्या सरकार द्वारा 2015-16 के दौरान राष्ट्रीय ऑर्गेनिक प्रोडक्शन कार्यक्रम (NPOP) के तहत 2962 ग्रुपों और 73519.40 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र को ऑर्गेनिक प्रमाणित किया गया है? (श्री पारशोत्तम रुपाला)

(a): State wise certified area (cultivable and wild) under National Programme on Organic Production (NPOP) during 2015-16 is given at Annexure-I. Besides, Government of India has launched Participatory Guarantee System (PGS India) programme to promote low cost PGS organic certification under this programme. Till date (as on 30 November 2016) a total of 2962 groups and 73519.40 hectare area are certified under PGS.

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(b) & (c): Organic farming is not expensive as compared to conventional farming. Government of India is promoting organic farming in country through the dedicated schemes of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) viz Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). Other schemes of Govt. of India are also supporting organic farming viz., National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) Network Project on Organic Farming. The pattern of assistance is given at Annexure II.

The Government is organizing training and awareness campaign/workshop creating awareness and educating the farmers about organic farming practices in the areas where clusters are formed.

(a) Rs. 80,000 per cluster is provided as financial assistance under PKVY scheme for the mobilization of farmers through different training & exposure visits.

(b) Similarly, under MOVCDNER scheme the financial assistance of Rs 8 crore is allocated for North Eastern Region to create awareness and publicity through lead agencies.

The National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF), Ghaziabad, a unit under the department undertakes various extension and publicity activities like exhibitions, radio talks, TV programmes, distribution of literature on organic inputs/ organic farming etc. to educate the farmers. NCOF is also publishing biannual Newsletter "Biofertilizers" as well as quarterly Newsletter called Organic Farming. In addition, various books on production and use of bio-fertilizers have been published in various languages for distribution to the farming community. Radio jingles on organic agriculture are broadcast on 4 different FM Radio Stations including Delhi, Bangalore, Nagpur and Lucknow. NCOF organizes 30 days certificate course on organic farming for skill development in organic agriculture sector for youth. It also conducts 10 days Refresher course for analysts under Fertilizer Control Order (FCO); 5 Days Trainers Training & 2 Days training for field functionaries and extension staff of the State Government. NCOF has also been organizing Farmers' Training and Field Demonstration (FTFD) programmes on organic farming since 2015-16 in various villages adopted by the Hon'ble

Members of Parliament under "Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana" (SAGY), through its Regional Centres of Organic Farming (RCOFs). It has completed 300 no. of FTFD in 2015-16 in which a total of 18051 farmers have been benefitted and has targeted 298 no. in the year 2016-17.

(d): Financial assistance is provided for setting up of mechanized Fruit/vegetables/Agro waste compost production units and biofertilizers/Bio-pesticides units. The pattern of assistance are giveat Annexure-II and State wise no. of units and subsidy under CISS for fruit/vegetable compost unit and State wise no. of units and subsidy under CISS for biofertilizer/biopesticides during last three years (According to NABARD) is given at Annexure III and IIIA.

(e): ICAR has informed that Preliminary, research he shown good prospects for vertical farming in horticulture to promote horticultural crops production from limited space in the country. There is no specific research as such on permaculture farming in India.